

gentleman has noticed that we have got a dictatorship returning to Haiti in the past several months and that we no longer have all the elements of democracy down there that we seek to have. The dictatorship has in fact returned. But that is not the reason for the amendment. The reason for the amendment is to give Haiti a better chance to treat it the same as everybody else, to get the right kind of help going to Haiti and to get our troops back where they need to be.

This is the defense authorization bill. This is not the Haiti relief bill. This is the defense authorization bill. The military has recommended we get those troops out of there on a permanent basis. We should listen to the military. Mr. Chairman, I urge support of the amendment.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Gilman-Goss amendment, which limits funds for deployment of US Armed Forces in Haiti.

There are about 400 US military personnel in Haiti, who make up the US-Haiti support Group. This mission is humanitarian in nature, and provides engineering and other infrastructure assistance, and it is important to note that their presence is not permanent.

The role our troops play in Haiti is critical. If this amendment passes; however, we would send a negative message to the people of Haiti; namely, that the United States is leaving them at a critical time in the country's movement toward democracy.

I would like to point out that no other statute requires that the President report to Congress before a training deployment, as would be required if this passes.

I urge you to vote "no" on this amendment. Lastly, it is unfortunate that a Member from Florida continues to attack our policy in Haiti. What we need to understand is that when the problems of Haiti go unresolved, these problems in turn, become ours as well.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment. The Gilman/Goss amendment sends the wrong signal to the people of Haiti. It says that we don't care about democracy and we don't care about the rule of law and certainly we don't care about the people of Haiti.

This amendment would mandate a congressionally-imposed deadline for the withdrawal of troops which could send a destructive signal to opponents of democratic reform in Haiti. We are not talking about many troops—just 270 troops. That is vastly different from the 25,000 troops that went to Haiti 5 years ago. The 25,000 troops didn't have a single causality and you wanted to end that. Now the 270 troops that help in the areas of health care and rehabilitation program—you want to cut that also. This is ludicrous.

This is just another tactic to embarrass this Administration and to call into question smart, quick and decisive action we took in 1994 when we restored democracy back to Haiti by taking out Raoul Cedras and restoring the democratic government of then President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Don't you remember what it was like 7 years ago when boat people drowned just to flee persecution and repression.

60,000 refugees left and fled for their lives. Many died trying to escape. This amendment

would cut off badly needed money to the defense program. This program allows children to be vaccinated and also allows engineers to train in building roads and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last program we have in Haiti and now that is in jeopardy. What exactly do you want to happen in Haiti. You cut off the training program, you effectively ended the MICIVIH program and now this humanitarian program.

The MICIVIH program was established in 1993 jointly by the United Nations General Assembly and the Organization of American States. Since that time, it has made critical contributions to Haiti's political development by assisting judicial reform efforts, conducting credible human rights monitoring and carrying out impartial investigations into human rights violations. Now that's gone.

Elections are coming up soon. This amendment would end what is a small and worthwhile humanitarian support program in Haiti.

The U.S. Military Support Group in Haiti—a 400 strong presence of engineers, humanitarian civil affairs and other personnel—serves as a visible manifestation of U.S. support for Haiti's democratic transition and economic development.

The presence of U.S. military personnel in Haiti also has a positive effect on the security and stability of Haiti. This is not a permanent presence in Haiti. The role our troops play there is critical, giving Haitians reason to be hopeful by building schools, providing health care, digging wells, and being a visible sign of the U.S. commitment to democracy in that country. The President has made it clear that he is paring down on the deployment and this is not the time to pull our troops out of Haiti.

Let's not pick on Haiti. I rise in opposition to this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) will be postponed.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 106-175.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MRS. MEEK OF FLORIDA

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part A amendment No. 14 offered by Mrs. MEEK of Florida:

At the end of title VII (page 238, after line 22), insert the following new section:

SEC. 726. RESTORATION OF PRIOR POLICY REGARDING RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES.

Section 1093 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "(a) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—"; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 200, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am offering an amendment that simply repeals the statutory prohibition on privately funded abortions in overseas military facilities and restores the law to what it was for many years. This amendment would permit servicewomen stationed overseas to use their own funds to obtain reproductive health care. No Federal funds would be used and health care professionals opposed to performing abortions as a matter of conscience or moral principle would not be required to do so. Earlier this month, this amendment was endorsed on a bipartisan basis by the Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services, the committee of jurisdiction. This was a major victory for women serving in our armed forces. Unfortunately, the full committee failed to follow the recommendation of the subcommittee and deleted the language from the bill. As one of the ranking women here, I strongly feel that this ill-advised policy must be overturned. Women in our armed forces already give up many freedoms and risk their lives to defend our country. They should not have to sacrifice their privacy, their health and their basic constitutional rights for a policy with no valid military purpose.

Many of my colleagues will recognize this amendment as the former Harman amendment. I am proud to attempt along with the Women's Caucus, those of us who support this, to continue the good work of my friend and my colleague Congresswoman Jane Harman. I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment. We owe our women serving our Nation no less, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, over the last 30 years the availability of abortion services at military medical facilities has been subjected to numerous changes and interpretations. In January 1993, President Clinton signed an executive order directing the Department of Defense to permit privately funded abortions in military treatment facilities. The changes ordered by the President, however, did not greatly increase the access to abortion services. Few abortions were performed at military treatment facilities overseas for a number of reasons. First, the United States military follows the prevailing laws and rules of the host nations regarding abortions. Secondly, the military has had a difficult time finding health care professionals in uniform willing to perform the procedures. Third, the real purpose of military medical treatment